

*Carol Rauscher
5132 NW 74th Court
Coconut Creek, FL 33073*

January 7, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am a computer user. I believe the "technological revolution" has allowed greater creativity and innovation than ever previously thought, and the one person most responsible for this revolution is Bill Gates. Through his hard work and own personal vision, he has allowed this country to move faster and farther than any previous "industrial" revolution. And, unfortunately, he is being punished for it.

I am talking of the antitrust suit brought against Bill Gates by the Department of Justice. My feelings with regard to this action is that it was brought by those who were not, and are not, as smart or innovative as Bill Gates, and only through such an action as an antitrust filing were they able to hinder Microsoft's progress. I think it is very tragic that we, in this country, allow so readily the destruction of a successful company. But the suit has ended. An agreement was reached. Microsoft has allowed, among other things, computer makers to install whichever software they wish. I now have a choice. Of course, I had a choice before, also. I was able to choose whatever software I wanted. I just had to go to ten different programs to get what I could get with one Microsoft package. Bill Gates, through Microsoft, made software and computers affordable. He kept prices down. Software and computers do not cost near what they did ten, fifteen years ago. Bill Gates brought the "computer revolution" into the living room of the average person, myself included.

That is why I am writing to urge you to give your support to the Microsoft settlement. It has been reached after three long, hard years. It is really time to move on. Do not give in to the demands of those who still are not satisfied, and will not be. We have moved forward from the tragedies of 2001, help us move forward in our economy as well. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Carol Rauscher

Cc: Representative Robert Wexler